

Title I Schools in Need of Assistance

School Choice

Upon identification – district must use IDE templates to provide parents with the following information:

- Reason for identification
 - Information about what identification means
 - Comparison of building achievement to others in District
 - Opportunities for parents to become involved in SINA process and student success
 - Information about school choice/ transfer options
 - * Including at least academic achievement levels at choice schools
 - Details about actions school is taking to address low performance
 - Information regarding SEA/District efforts to assist identified school
- Title I schools must offer public school choice to their students if the school is:
1. In the first year of school improvement,
 2. In the second year of school improvement,
 3. In corrective action, or
 4. In the planning year for restructuring.
- District must report the following to IDE for each identified building:
1. The number of students eligible for choice
 2. The number of students requesting choice
 3. The number of students granted choice
- [Title I, section 1111(h)(4)(F)].*

Eligible Students

- All students enrolled in the Title I SINA schools are eligible for choice.
- If it is not possible to offer choice to all students requesting it, priority must be given to the lowest achieving, low income students.

Schools that can receive students

- Any school offered as a choice option must have higher academic performance than the school of origin and may not be identified for improvement.
- If more than one school is available as a choice option, the LEA must offer more than one choice to eligible students.

Schools that cannot receive students

- Students may not transfer to any schools that:
 1. Have been identified for improvement, corrective action, or the planning year of restructuring; or
 2. Have been identified by the State as persistently dangerous.

- An LEA must provide an explanation of the choice option to all parents of students enrolled in Title I schools that have been identified as having to provide choice. (Assure that they understand what services are offered in receiving schools)
- This notification must be in a comprehensive, easy-to-understand format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
- At a minimum, this notification must:
 1. Inform parents that their child is eligible to attend another public school due to the less than adequate performance of their current school;
 2. Identify each public school, including public charter schools, that the parent can select; and
 3. Describe the performance and overall quality of those schools.

Length of Time for Choice

- If an eligible student exercises his or her choice option, an LEA must permit the student to remain in the new school until the student has completed the highest grade in the school.
- However, the LEA is no longer obligated to provide transportation for the student after the end of the school year in which the student's school of origin is no longer identified for school improvement, corrective action, or in the planning year of restructuring.

What if no schools are available?

- Parents must *still* be notified that their child's school is identified for school improvement and that the child is eligible for choice, but that no choices are currently available.
- Such notification **may** also inform parents of the option of supplemental services for those children who are eligible.
- This may occur when all schools at a grade level are in school improvement. In this case, the LEA shall, to the extent practicable, establish a cooperative agreement with other LEAs in the area.
- Other situations may also exist, such as where there is only one school in the district or when the rural or isolated nature of an LEA prevents choice. In these situations, the LEA **may** offer supplemental educational services to all students who are eligible.

Responsibilities of the Receiving School

- A school that receives students under this program must ensure that the students are enrolled in classes and other activities in the school in the same manner as all other students in the school.

Funding for Choice

- Unless a lesser amount is needed to meet demand for choice-related transportation and to satisfy all requests for supplemental educational services, an LEA must spend up to an amount equal to 20 percent of its **Title I, Part A allocation**, before any reservations, on:

1. Choice-related transportation;
2. Supplemental educational services; or
3. A combination of (1) and (2).

Establishing priorities

When more students request services than the school district can fund, the school district must place a priority on serving students who are the lowest achieving.